

Serial No. 10/656,428

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) ~~An absorbent article~~ An adhesive bandage comprising a wound contacting pad, said wound contacting pad comprising:

an absorbent nonwoven fabric comprising absorbent fibers and synthetic non-absorbent fibers, said absorbent and synthetic non-absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, wood pulp, polyolefins, polyamides and polyesters, said nonwoven fabric having a density from about 0.01 g/cc to 0.05 g/cc and a basis weight of from about 30 gsm to about 150 gsm, said nonwoven fabric having a first major surface and a second major surface; and

an apertured film secured to at least one major surface of the nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprising the nonwoven fabric are bicomponent fibers.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 1 wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises ~~a blend of~~ from about 70% to about 95% by weight of said synthetic non-absorbent fibers and from about 5% to about 30% by weight of said absorbent fibers ~~and has a basis weight ranging from about 30 gsm to about 150 gsm.~~

Claim 5. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the apertured film comprises a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate, polyethylene, metallocene catalyzed polyethylene, polypropylene, and copolymers thereof, and ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers.

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Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~6~~1 wherein the open area of the apertured film ranges from about 5 percent to about 30 percent of the total area of the apertured film.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~7~~4 wherein the open area of the apertured film ranges from about ~~40~~ 5 percent to about ~~25~~ 30 percent of the total area of the apertured film.

Claim 9. (Original) The article of claim 1 further comprising a top layer secured to the second major surface of said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 10. (Original) The article of claim 9 wherein said top layer material is a microporous film.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (New) The adhesive bandage of claim 1 wherein said apertured film comprises protrubences oriented to face into said at least one major surface of said nonwoven fabric to which said apertured film is secured.

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Claim 20. (New) The adhesive bandage of claim 8 wherein said apertured film comprises protrubences oriented to face into said at least one major surface of said nonwoven fabric to which said apertured film is secured.